

In the Specification:

Please amend the specification as indicated below. All amended paragraphs are reproduced below in clean form. Marked up copies of the amended paragraphs are provided in the Appendix to this Amendment.

Please delete the paragraph which begins on page 9, line 28. Please replace the deleted paragraph with the following replacement paragraph:

Referring now specifically to Figures 4 and 5, each holder 32 includes first and second snap together couplings 17 and 21, preferably formed on the inward-facing base surface 27 of holder 32. Preferably, the first coupling is a male or ball type 21 and the second coupling is a socket or female type 17. As best seen in Figs. 4 and 5, the male couplings and the female couplings are disposed on opposite sides of slot-like region 33. Adjacent each male coupling 21 is a slot 25 that extends through the holder 32. Male type coupling 21 preferably has a curved cylindrical shape to hook or snap into a mating female socket 17 on a next adjacent holder 32 coupling.

Please delete the paragraph which begins on page 10, line 5. Please replace the deleted paragraph with the following replacement paragraph:

As shown in Fig. 6B, a snapped-together male and female coupling (from adjacent holders 32) form a hinge 50. The distal end 17a of each female coupling 17 may extend into the slot 25 when the male coupling 21 snaps into the female coupling 17. Such coupling advantageously helps holders 32 to be sufficiently flexibly interlinked so as to rotate around a sprocket 36, e.g., as shown in Fig. 7. As adjacent holders 32 rotate around the sprocket 36 and fan out, the distal end 17a of the female coupling 17 passes through the slot 25. In addition, as shown in Figs. 6A and 6B such coupling also permits adjacent holders to maintain their physical contiguous relationship with each other when rotated into vertical up and down

Fig 8
portions of travel. Such close relationship advantageously helps rack 10 maximize storage density. As described further with respect to Fig. 8, holder 32 preferably includes a pair of somewhat L-shaped slideable interlocks 47 that project from the inward facing surface 27 of holder 32 to define gaps or slots 42.

Please delete the paragraph which begins on page 10, line 17. Please replace the deleted paragraph with the following replacement paragraph:

Fig
Referring once more to Fig. 7, the curved exterior surface of female coupling 17 normally is seated in the groove or valley 41 between the adjacent teeth 37 on a sprocket 36. Such mating engagement not only makes effective engagement between continuous loop 23 of interlocked holders 32 and a drive sprocket 36, but advantageously promotes fan-out of holders 32 and their associated containers 18 at turnaround regions, e.g., region 11, as shown in Figs. 1, 2, 7, 9 and 10. As noted, such fanout permits a desired container 18 to be readily removed from rack 10 with a user's ringers.

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 15, 37, 50, 56 and 57, as shown below. All pending claims are reproduced below, including those that remain unchanged. A marked up copy of the amended claim illustrating the changes is shown in the Appendix to this Response.

1.-14. (Previously Cancelled)

15. (Fourth Amended) A holder usable to create a continuous loop formed by matingly interlocking adjacent such holders, the holder comprising:

first and second walls retained a spaced-apart distance from each other and adapted to admit at least a portion of at least one object to be retained by said holder;